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HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

A N N U A L   R E P O R T

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Health Department,  
Town Hall,  
Bishop Auckland.



BISHOP AUCKLAND URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

ANNUAL REPORT 1949.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the following report for 1949.

Area and Social Conditions.

The area of the district is 9,336 acres. The Registrar General estimates that the civilian population in mid 1949 was 36,070, an increase of 220 on the previous year's estimate.

The rateable value is £148,323 and the product of a penny rate £543.

The number of occupied houses at the end of 1949, according to the Council's rates records was 10,453.

VITAL STATISTICS.

In the following extracts from the district's vital statistics the corrected figures as supplied by the Registrar General have been used and the rates quoted have been calculated on the above mentioned estimated population.

Live Births.	Total	Males	Females.
Legitimate.	717	364	353
Illegitimate.	38	18	20
TOTAL.	755	382	373

The live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population is 20.9. This rate is slightly lower than the birth rate for 1948 (21.5) but is considerably higher than the birth rate for the country as a whole, which in 1949 was 16.7.

Still Births.	Total	Males	Females.
Legitimate.	19	8	11
Illegitimate.	1	1	0
TOTAL.	20	9	11

Rate per 1,000 live and still births	25.8
Rate per 1,000 of estimated population	0.55

The still birth rate in this district per 1,000 of the estimated population was 0.69 in 1948. The corresponding rate for England and Wales as a whole in 1949 was 0.39.

DEATHS.

After correction for outwardly and inwardly transferable deaths the total deaths occurring among district residents during the year was 422. The death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population was 11.7. This rate is precisely the same as the corresponding rate for England and Wales as a whole.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 births
(a) From puerperal sepsis.	Nil	-
(b) From other maternal causes.	Nil	-

Deaths of infants under one year of age.

Mortality rate all infants per 1,000 live births. 33.1  
Mortality rate legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births. 32.2  
Mortality rate illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 52.6

The infant mortality here recorded is the lowest I have recorded in the twenty five years of service in this district. It compares favourably with the corresponding rate for England and Wales which in 1949 was 32.

Twenty five years ago the infant mortality rate in Bishop Auckland was 117 and in the late Rural District of Auckland 85.2, a mean of 101.1. The gratifying reduction in the district's infant mortality during the past quarter of a century is indicative of the great progress that has been made by the Maternity and Child Welfare section of our social workers.

The following table gives the number of deaths from various causes during the year.

Causes of Death.	M	F	Total.
Cancer.	35	39	74
Diabetes.	0	3	3
Cerebro vascular lesions.	17	24	41
Heart Diseases.	77	76	153
Bronchitis.	11	3	14
Pneumonia.	8	11	19
Other respiratory diseases.	3	1	4
Gastric or duodenal ulcer.	3	0	3
Appendicitis.	1	0	1
Other digestive diseases.	2	5	7
Nephritis.	0	7	7
Premature Birth.	2	4	6
Congenital malformation or injury at birth.	9	4	13
Suicide.	3	0	3
Road Traffic accidents.	2	0	2
Other violent deaths.	4	1	5
Tuberculosis (all forms).	12	14	26
Influenza.	1	2	3
Other infectious diseases.	0	0	0
All other causes than those specified above.	12	11	23

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows the incidence of, and deaths from the various notifiable infectious diseases (excluding Tuberculosis) which occurred among the civilian population during the year.



Disease.	Total cases notified.	Total no. of cases after corrected diagnosis.	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever.	89	88	72	--
Smallpox.	--	--	--	--
Diphtheria.	2	--	2	--
Enteric Fever.	--	--	--	--
Cerebro Spinal Fever.	--	--	--	--
Pneumonia.	7	5	1	19
Puerperal Pyrexia.	7	7	3	--
Measles.	343	344	--	--
Whooping Cough.	105	105	--	--
Erysipelas.	3	3	--	--
Dysentery.	6	6	6	--
Acute Poliomyelitis.	6	5	6	--
Acute Encephalitis.	--	--	--	--
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	--	--	--	--
Food Poisoning.	1	1	--	--

#### TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table shows, in arrangement by age groups, the number of new cases notified and of deaths from Tuberculosis occurring in the district in 1949.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non Pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	1	-	2	1	-	-	1	2
5 -	2	1	3	3	-	-	-	-
15 -	3	8	1	2	1	2	-	-
25 -	3	9	-	-	3	5	-	-
35 -	3	-	-	-	3	1	-	-
45 -	3	2	-	-	2	1	-	-
55 -	2	-	1	-	3	-	-	-
65 and over.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals								
1949	17	21	7	6	12	9	1	2
1948	25	24	6	10	11	11	2	1
1947	13	27	7	14	11	12	3	3
1946	34	15	19	15	11	11	1	1
1945	24	20	20	7	15	9	5	6
1944	18	20	11	12	7	10	2	3

In addition to the deaths recorded above two female deaths from Tuberculosis (Pulmonary) were registered in respect of persons, who, prior to their decease, had not been notified as suffering from the disease.

#### SPECIAL HEALTH SERVICES.

##### (a) Immunisation against Diphtheria.

As mentioned in my Annual Report for the preceeding year, immunisation against Diphtheria has, under terms of the National Health Act, become the responsibility of the County Authority.

According to returns received from the County Medical Officer of Health, 327 children resident in this urban district received full courses of immunisation treatment and 21 children who had been treated in infancy received "booster" doses of the immunising agent.

The detail of local treatments recorded is as follows:-

Infants under 5 years of age.	299 *
Children over 5 years of age.	28
Booster doses to children who had already received a full course of treatment.	21

\* Includes 8 treatments effected in 1948 but not recorded until 1949.

Since the publication of my report for 1948 an agreement has been reached on the remuneration of private medical practitioners for administering injections of immunising agent. It is to be assumed, therefore, that the general practitioners are now recording all their treatments. If this assumption is correct, then the present acceptance of immunisation by the parents of our local children cannot be considered satisfactory, for it would appear that less than 50% of our infants are being treated under the scheme.

#### (b) Rodent Control.

During the year the full time Rodent Operator employed by the Council dealt with 140 medium and minor rat infestations. Of these infestations 42 were on Council properties (refuse tips, sewage disposal works, etc.,) 35 were on privately owned premises which were serviced at owners' or occupiers' cost, and 63 were on premises serviced on block control free of charge.

The total estimated kill was 5,388 rats; 2,153 on Council properties, 978 on private premises, and 2,257 on premises serviced in block control.

The above mentioned estimated kill does not include any estimate of rats killed by the two control operations conducted in the Council's sewers during the year.

#### (c) Food Inspection.

Meat. Your Sanitary Inspectors continued during the year the inspection of carcasses at the Central Abattoir, Bishop Auckland, which serves this and a number of other districts in South West Durham. The following is a summary of their year's inspections.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed.	3456	615	843	13962	175
Number inspected.	3256	609	783	13542	173
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned.	5	23	3	24	4
Carcasses of which part or organ was condemned.	14	---	2	14	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	.73	4.36	.63	.28	5.43
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.					
Whole Carcasses condemned.	9	29	---	-----	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	4	4	---	-----	---
Percentage of number examined affected with Tuberculosis.	.38	5.26	---	-----	.41

The total weight of carcase meat (including offal) condemned during the year was 28 tons 9 cwts. 5 lbs.

Other Food Stuffs. 11 tons 4 cwts 2 qrs 21 lbs of food stuffs plus 1,355 lots (tins, packets, jars, etc.,) were condemned as unfit for use during the year.

All the condemned food above mentioned was voluntarily surrendered. In no case was seizure necessary nor was there any prosecution for the sale or exposure for sale of unsound food.



(d) Conversion to Water Carriage.

During the year under review 235 closets of the conservancy type were converted to water carriage system.

Of these, 118 conversions were effected by the Council as a general conversion scheme in the village of Toronto. The remaining 117 conversions were effected under provisions of Section 47 (4) of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Consequent upon the Toronto conversion scheme above mentioned, the Council decided to increase the amount of grant to owners applying to convert under terms of Section 47 (4). In July, 1949, the grant was raised from £3.11. 9 to £7.10. 0., the latter figure being one half of the contract price of the average Toronto conversion. The increased grant had the immediate effect of increasing the number of applications by owners to convert.

At the end of 1949 the various types of closets in the district were as follows:-

Water Closets (including those of shops, factories schools, etc.,)	7,105
Ash Closets.	4,595
Ashpit Privies.	260

GENERAL HOUSING REPAIRS.

The following is a summary of the housing repairs effected in the district during the year as a result of informal and formal notices.

Public Health Acts and Housing Acts.	No. of informal notices.	No. of formal notices by order of the Council.	No. of nuisances abated and housing defects remedied.
Dwelling) Structural defects Houses ) or Foul conditions.	487	38	483
Dairies and Milkshops.	---	--	---
Cowsheds.	8	--	7
Bakehouses.	2	--	2
Ashpits and Privies.	69	3	70
Water Closets.	5	--	6
Deposits of Refuse.	7	--	8
Defective Drains.	124	--	106
Other Nuisances.	169	1	120

NEW HOUSES.

During the year a total of 195 new houses were built in the district. Of these 158 were Council houses and 37 were built by private enterprise.

CONTROL OF CIVIL BUILDING.

As local licensing officer on behalf of the Ministry of Works in respect of repairs and alterations to dwelling houses, I issued during the year a total of thirty eight licences involving repairs and improvements costing a total of £12,047.

WATER SUPPLY.

The entire district's population is serviced by a mains water supply. The bulk of the area of Bishop Auckland town (3449 houses) is supplied by the Council's Waterworks, while the remainder of the district is supplied from the mains of Durham County Water Board.

During 1949 your Waterworks Engineer submitted two samples of the town's water for bacteriological analyses and two samples for chemical analyses.

As reported by me in my monthly reports throughout the year the results of all those analyses were highly satisfactory.

#### FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There are 153 of these on the district's register of which 35 are factories in respect of which sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are enforceable by the local authority. During the year the Council's Health Department staff conducted 33 inspections in factories. The inspections resulted in the discovery of five defects, three of which were in relation to sanitary conveniences. All five defects were remedied as a result of informal action.

I append a series of tables showing comparisons in vital statistics and in the incidence of infectious diseases during the various years of the present decade.

From consideration of the details of vital statistics recorded in this report, a satisfactory general state of health of the community may be deduced from such evidences as

- (a) the district's birth rate has been maintained at a figure slightly above the average for the past ten years, and is higher than that for the country as a whole.
- (b) the death rate is the lowest recorded for any year of the present decade and is the same as the rate for England and Wales.
- (c) the infant mortality rate is much lower than that ever previously recorded for this district and is favourably comparable with the rate for the country as a whole.
- (d) there were no maternal deaths during the year.
- (e) no deaths occurred as a result of any of the notifiable zymotic diseases.
- (f) the incidence of new cases of tuberculosis is the lowest recorded since 1940.

In conclusion I wish to take this opportunity of expressing my warm appreciation and thanks for the continued help and co-operation which I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, from my colleagues in other departments, from my Departmental staff, and from the staff of the County Health Department.

I am,  
Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient servant,

H.G. DONALD.

Medical Officer of Health.



APPENDIX. - Comparisons in Vital Statistics etc., during the years 1940 - 1949.

VITAL STATISTICS.	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Birth Rate.	17.2	17.2	16.2	18.8	20.5	20.3	22.6	25.6	21.5	20.9
Death Rate.	15.1	12.7	12.7	14.5	13.9	14.4	13.5	14.7	12.8	11.7
Infant Mortality Rate.	83.0	63.3	65.3	81.6	62.9	59.1	54.2	49.1	50.5	33.1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES - NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS.

	1940		1941		1942		1943		1944		1945		1946		1947		1948		1949	
	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D
Acute Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	10	-	2	-	6	-
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.	22	4	8	1	9	-	3	-	4	-	1	-	2	-	3	1	3	-	-	-
Diphtheria.	82	2	119	2	86	1	88	1	29	2	37	1	12	-	3	-	7	-	2	-
Dysentery.	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	6	-
Encephalitis Lethargica.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever.	1	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas.	13	-	7	-	10	-	10	-	10	1	10	-	13	-	8	-	10	-	3	-
Measles.	245	2	83	-	220	-	962	1	22	3	614	-	54	-	289	-	284	-	343	-
Ophthalmis Neonatorum.	-	-	6	-	3	-	2	18	3	-	1	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia.	35	17	24	10	39	20	32	18	24	16	13	16	19	14	11	25	8	16	7	19
Puerperal Pyrexia.	11	3	2	1	8	-	3	-	-	2	3	1	4	-	1	-	2	-	7	-
Scarlet Fever.	53	-	99	-	80	-	109	-	75	-	53	-	41	1	68	-	91	-	89	-
Smallpox.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	16	1	217	1	70	-	124	1	19	2	124	1	113	-	120	1	53	1	105	-
TOTALS.	478	29	571	15	525	21	1333	24	188	27	858	20	261	15	517	28	460	18	568	19

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES NOTIFIED.

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Pulmonary Cases.	26	33	39	32	38	44	49	40	49	38
Non Pulmonary Cases.	19	17	17	28	23	27	34	21	16	13







